 **American History** **Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**2011-2012**

**(Freccia) Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Introduction to American History 2011-2012 (for Honors and College Prep Students)**

Welcome to American History! This course will cover the historic and cultural development of America from the Civil War to the present day in coordination with the Delaware State Standards for Social Studies. All lessons in this course will be based from the standards set by the State of Delaware in Economics, Civics, History, and Geography in preparation for the DCAS online exam that will be given at the end of this school year. In addition, students will receive “training” in library and online research as well as other skills that correspond to the Delaware State Standards for English.

In order to fulfill these standards by the end of the school year, this course will use a variety of methods that will allow students the ability to interpret and analyze how the world they live in today was shaped by decisions made in the past. Some of the methods will include the use of interactive lessons, projects, essays, PowerPoint presentations, interpreting primary sources, video production, and film interpretation. Below is an outline that details the units this class will cover over the course of this year.

**Unit I** The Civil War and Reconstruction (1860 – 1876)

**Unit II** Industrialization and the Movement of People (1874 – 1898)

**Unit III** The Emergence of Modern America (1898 – 1919)

**Unit IV**  Challenges of the Greatest Generation (1919 – 1945)

**Unit V**  Post War United States (1945-1980)

**Unit VI** Contemporary United States (1980-present)

**What you need to be successful in this class:**

* A one inch three ring binder (to bring to class each day)
* 100 sheets of college ruled (lined) paper (to place inside of the binder)
* A writing instrument of some sort (pencil or black/blue ink only please)
* CP Textbook: *American History: The Modern Era Since 1865* by McGraw Hill
* Honors Textbook: *American Odyssey: The United States in the 20th Century* by McGraw Hill

**Information about this class**

**Grade Reporting:** Your grades are generally updated within 48 hours after an assignment is turned-in. That means that the grades found on the HomeAccess system for my class represents your most up-to-date grade. Please note that final assignments in a marking period are often major point producers (often a project or exam) that CAN cause your grade to drop dramatically.

This class uses the district grading scale: 90+ (A), 80-89 (B), 70-79 (C), 60-69 (D), 59- (F) and scores will be rounded up to the nearest whole number. Classroom behavior is a “border” issue – if you are “on the border” (within one point) between two grades, good behavior during the semester can push your grade up.

When examining your HomeAccess grades, keep in mind the following:

* The letter “Z” represents an assignment that you did not turn-in but should have (didn’t finish, didn’t turn-in, was not prepared) and indicates you will not receive full credit on the assignment.
* The number “0” represents an assignment that you did not turn-in but you are granted the opportunity for full credit (given additional time, excused absence)
* The letter “X” represents an assignment that you missed while absent that is excused and does not need to be made-up for credit (like a group work assignment or film assignment)

# Assignment Worth:

* Classwork and Homework Assignments – 10 points each (unless otherwise noted) 40%
* Open-note Textbook Quizzes – 10 points each (including a free point per quiz) 20%
* Projects / Unit Exams – 50 points / 60 points (unless otherwise noted) 40%

Late work will be accepted until the end of a particular unit. Students have as many days to make up missed work for full credit as they missed (and ONLY if they have an excused absence). Failure to do so in a timely manner OR if you don’t have an excused absence will result in a point deduction of 30% for an assignment.

As you will be given a calendar at the beginning of each marking period, you are expected to be prepared for anything due on a particular day (so long as you have the resources needed). If you are in the building, any homework assignment is due if the class meets *even if* you are driving, in the nurses office/wellness center, meeting with a councilor, or in ISA.

**Discipline:**

* Passes to the bathroom are for emergencies only. Students are limited to two per month (after which a hall monitor will escort you down and back at my discretion). Students must sign-out and sign-out after taking the pass for any reason.
* Students are expected to be in class on-time. Students arriving late will not be able to make-up material covered AND will be given a consequence based on the school code of conduct.
* Students disrupting the learning process of others (or at the determent to themselves) will be warned and then removed.
* Use of any technological devices prior to completing work is unacceptable.

**The following are REQUIRED in order to successfully pass this class:**

* The completion of a researched project (failure to do so will result in an “N”)
* Averaging a 59.45% over the time spent in the class (roughly passing two of the four marking periods and one of the two exams)
* Passing both the fourth marking period and the final exam.
* Missing no more than nine classes (with or without excuses) during the course of the year (failure to do so can result in an “Z”)

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# August 16, 2011

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Keeping the lines of communication open is one the most important ways we, as a school community, can support academic success. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to inform parents/guardians about our expectations for learning. Particularly at this time of accountability and state testing, it is important that the student, the parent/guardian, and the educator work together in order to fulfill those goals.

Before signing this sheet, I would like to ask you to look over the “Course Description” handout your student was given along with this letter. On it, you will see my expectations for the students (academically and behaviorally), the course requirements, and a course outline.

As a requirement for this class, students are expected to keep an updated notebook, which will include notes, handouts, homework assignments, quizzes, and exams. I recommend that you occasionally check on your student’s progress for yourselves to see how they are doing in the class. In addition, the grades in the HomeAccess Center will be updated after every class period in order for both you and your student to know what their current grade is at any time. Current assignments and information regarding this course are also available on my website <http://wikifreccia.wikispaces.com>.

Please review these handouts carefully. If you have any questions or concerns, now or in the future, do not hesitate to contact me. My phone number at Newark is **631-4700 (ext. 14395)** and my e-mail address is [frecciab@christina.k12.de.us](mailto:frecciab@christina.k12.de.us). In addition, the date for the Newark Open House is Wednesday, September 14th and I hope to see you there! Your student’s education is important to me and I look forward to an exciting and rewarding year!

Sincerely,

Brent J. Freccia

Social Studies Department

Newark High School

I have read and I understand the expectations for my student in Mr. Freccia’s class.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_

Contact (email and phone #): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_